

Can I Get 8 Per Cent. on My Money? Why Should Children Be Nervous?

By ALBERT W. ATWOOD

Next week Mr. Atwood will answer the question: "Shall I Buy a Farm Mortgage?"

THE title to this article is very attractive—more so than the reading matter. But there are so many investors who insist upon a high rate of interest that it is necessary to talk to them "straight." I would not go so far as to say that no safe investment could be created to yield 8 per cent., but to discover it one must use extremely careful discrimination. There are plenty of safe 6 per cent. investments; there are a few classes at 7 per cent.; but when 8 per cent. is reached, we arrive at a curious sort of borderland, full of barbed-wire entanglements and other obstacles, which many persons are not fitted by nature to surmount.

Are You Afraid of Risk?

THE first difficulty is that most persons do not know what they mean when they use the word "investment." If a man buys stock in a gold mine and it turns out well, paying him perhaps 40 per cent. on his money, he says it "has proved to be a good investment." Then he also speaks of a 5 per cent. bond as a "conservative investment," and in the next sentence mourns an "unsuccessful investment" he made when he bought another gold mining stock that never returned him a single penny. The trouble is that he mixes his terms hopelessly.

When you employ your money to earn more money, are you willing to take some risk, in the hope of making a great return, and are you willing to go to a deal of pains to investigate, or are you unwilling to do either of these things? If you are unwilling to take risks and unwilling to investigate, you can invest safely, without trouble, and with only a minimum chance of loss, at 4, 5, and even 6 per cent. The 5 per cent. bond is absolutely different from the 8 per cent. investment. One presupposes a sort of distilled, impersonal, almost abstract use of money; the other requires training, experience, keen discrimination, and active personal interest, added to the mere money itself.

8 Per Cent. on Your Money

YES, you can get 8 per cent. if you are willing to burrow deeply into a proposition. But you can't get 8 per cent. by investing money at random. In several of the Western and Southern States mortgages are to be had to pay 8 per cent.; but so high a rate necessitates an unusually careful inquiry. The proposition may be safe, but the burden of proof is upon it. Generally speaking, small, unknown, and far-away enterprises pay high rates, no matter where they are, East, West, North, or South. The fact that a concern is new, small, and far away does not prove it is unsafe by any means, but it does require a lot more investigation, and the very trouble and expense involved is worth to many people one or two per cent. on their money.

The stock market, using that word to mean the great emporium for securities that centers mainly in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago, but most conspicuously in New York, offers plenty of 8 per cent. opportunities, both in what are called listed securities (those on the Stock Exchange) and in the unlisted market. But that rate of interest is combined with safety only when the purchaser has the courage of his convictions. His judgment may be right, and often is; but it is primarily his judgment, not the consensus of opinion, firmly established by the course of events, which timid people find so easy to follow.

I will show you what I mean by



Albert W. Atwood.

the demand for judgment. Do you think the New Haven Railroad will work out of its difficulties? Do you believe it is a sound property? Well, one of its chief subsidiary companies, the New England Navigation Company, has issued 6 per cent. notes, coming due May 1, 1917, which at this writing may be had at 95 per cent. of their face value, or a net return on the money invested of over 8 per cent. Here is a case for study, investigation, and judgment.

The facts are accessible to any one who chooses to go after them.

When you see that a stock or bond is selling at a price to return a high rate of interest, don't say offhand, "It can't be safe." What you should say is this: "It may be unsafe, but there are possibly other reasons for the price. Now, do I want to take the time and trouble to investigate, or do I not?"

Bond Experts Do Not Agree on this Point

MISS L., PHILADELPHIA.—No one can say definitely whether the present time or the period to follow the war will prove the better in which to purchase bonds. All the experts debate and disagree on the subject. The main point is to find a bond that is safe in itself and issued by a company not directly affected by the war. There are many such to choose from.

By EDWIN F. BOWERS, M.D.

Each week Dr. Bowers answers the most interesting question. Next week: "What Is the Best Exercise for Office Workers?"



Edwin F. Bowers, M.D.

ASOUTHERN lady wishes to know what causes nervousness in children. Until very recently, our girls have had a most liberal education in everything excepting those most important branches of a woman's training—mothercraft and child culture. Because of this neglect an exaggerated maternal instinct, coupled with a deficiency of maternal knowledge, has most generally been responsible for nervousness and hysteria in children.

The young mother, although naturally proud of her child, has a plentiful lack of knowledge of its primary needs—rest, food, and freedom from excitement. She not only permits but she aids and abets solicitous and admiring relatives and friends to intrude upon the child's sleep hours—disturbing that little aggregation of sensitive cells and tissue in the pursuit of its chief business in life, which is sleep and growth.

She encourages and participates in the feminine riots that shock the youngster out of its normal condition of relaxation. She dandles it, coos to it, and otherwise maltreats her innocent child until its nerves become irritated, its placidity ruffled, and its growth and nutrition—particularly the nutrition and development of its nervous system—become abnormal.

The consequence is that the baby exhibits fits of "temper"—due mainly to these nervous shocks—which shortly result in fretfulness, night terrors, unwilling-

ness to remain alone, and sometimes hysteria or even convulsions. By the exercise of a reasonable amount of common sense these conditions are readily corrected.

First, the child should be given a fair start. No matter what bespectacled science may say to the contrary, prenatal impressions exercise a profound influence upon child development. If this fundamental principle be not violated, Nature usually equips all children—on the East Side as on Fifth Avenue—free

and equal physically. If it is then treated with masterly let-it-alone-ness—especially with regard to pernicious soothing syrups and other "dopes"—the youngster will rarely exhibit any abnormality.

It will grow a happy, healthy animal, indulging in just sufficient crying to enable it to inflate and develop its little lungs. It will sleep the innocent sleep that knits up the "raveled sleeve of care." It will coo and laugh from sheer joy of living. It will be free from "nerves," and will evolve into vigorous, untrammelled boyhood or girlhood, a credit to itself and to the intelligence of the mother who bore and trained it.

Therefore, nervousness in children is largely dependent upon ignorance in mothers. And the primary cure for the condition involves a more liberal education of the mothers in those two paramount and important sciences—mothercraft and child culture.

One Minute with the Editor

Who Is the Most Useful Man in Your City?

IS he a preacher, a doctor, the mayor, or is he perhaps somebody in an obscure position, whose usefulness is hardly suspected by the city at large?

We have a kind of curiosity on that subject. We'd like to publish some pictures of "the most useful man or woman," and some letters about why they are what they are.

Do you suppose you could send us some pictures and help us out with a picture of "the most useful man in our town"? We'll make it worth your while.

The Secrets of the Hotel-Keeper

WHY do people register at an expensive hotel and then sneak around the corner to eat at a dairy lunch?

How much of the food that a hotel buys has to be thrown away?

Why do grapefruit that are three for a quarter in the market cost forty cents a portion in the hotel dining-room?

And why does the hotel lose money on its dining-room, even with prices like that?

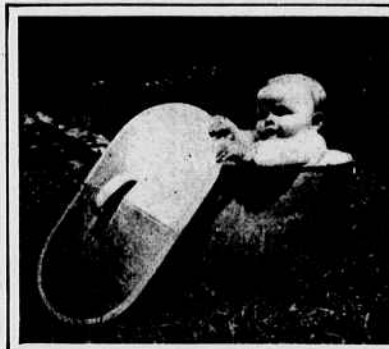
Edward Hungerford, who

wrote "The Romance of the Barber Shop" for us, has written the story of the hotel. Look for it—it's coming.

We Settle a Little Dispute

TO THE EDITOR: A bets that Theodore Roosevelt is the best known man in the United States; B bets that Henry Ford is. Both agree to leave it to you. Please decide.

ANSWER: Both are wrong. The best known individual in the United States is Torchy, who has been the guest at 1,000,000 Sunday breakfast tables every week for nearly nine years. And, by the way, there's a Shorty story next week, and another Torchy story on the way.



"Wash Day"—an interesting picture submitted by a subscriber this week. Why don't you send us an interesting picture? Lots of the pictures that we publish are sent in by subscribers, and we pay well for them, too.

It's a Hard Job—Giving Money Away

YOU'LL realize it better when you've read Mr. Rockefeller's article—and you'd have an even keener feeling about it if you had to read his mail for a couple of days. Hundreds of letters he gets, asking for everything from a million dollars for a college down to a pair of wooden legs. Long ago he was forced to work out a system for disposing of his money as perfect in its way as the system that made it for him. This is the first time Mr. Rockefeller has discussed the subject in a magazine.

It's Called "Sobs"

CURIOUS sort of name for a story, isn't it? It's about a girl—and a man, of course. He was the star reporter on a New York paper, and she was what they call the "sob sister." It was her job to hunt out the pathos in the city's life, and play it up in your morning paper so as to bring a gulp to your throat.

Dana Burnet wrote this story. He's a reporter on a newspaper himself, and he knows how to tell a bully tale. It's the lead story next week.